

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

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SUBJECT:NATO FORCE GOALS 1975-80

REFS: A. USNATO 0428; B. USNATO 0404; C. JCS 7645; D. STATE

9700

1. OUR PRIMARY AIM IN THE NATO FORCE PLANNING PROCESS IS AN OUTCOME THAT WILL MOVE US TOWARD A MORE RATIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE NATO POSTURE. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF THIS AND INTEND FOR OUR PART TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO FURTHER IT. GUIDANCE TO GEN MILTON (REFC) IN REGARD TO FORCE PROPOSALS WAS DRAFTED WITH THIS IN MIND. THIS GUIDANCE IS INTENDED TO ACCOMPLISH TWO THINGS: (A) PROVIDE COMMENTS ON FORCE PROPOSALS FOR US FORCES, AND (B) PROVIDE GENERAL GUIDANCE WHICH EMPHASIZES

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QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS URGED BY THE US IN THE LAST TWO

DPC MEETINGS. IN BROADER SENSE, WE VIEW GEN MILTON'S EFFORT AS THE INITIAL PUSH TO BE CARRIED FURTHER IN SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS IN DRC/DPC.

2. WE NOW EXPECT USDEL MC TO URGE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO DRAW TOGETHER ALL NATIONAL PROPOSALS, INCLUDING OUR OWN, TO PRESENT AN INTEGRATED AND BALANCED OVERALL FORCE STRUCTURE STATEMENT. WE NOTE IN YOUR PROPOSED LETTER TO LUNS THAT YOU TOO HAVE URGED THE MC TO WORK TOWARDS THIS BROAD OBJECTIVE. HOWEVER, I MAY BE THAT SOME OF THE WORK PROPOSED IN PARA 4, REFERENCE B, SHOULD PROPERLY BE LEFT

TO THE DRC/DPC.

3. WHEN THE DRC/DPC EXAMINES THE POLITICAL, FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSALS THERE WILL BE FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REFINE PRIORITIES AND OPTIONS. WE ARE NOW ANALYZING THE FORCE PROPOSALS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP GUIDANCE FOR THE MISSION. WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE, IN THE FINAL STAGE OF THE FORCE GOALS REVIEW, TO STATE OUR PRIORITIES TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION RELEVANT ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MILITARY FACTORS. WE INTEND TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS EMPHASIZED IN THE BASIC ISSUES STUDY, WHICH GO TO THE CORE OF THE AD-70 IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. IN SUM, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS OUR VIEWS HARD IN THE MC, AS WELL AS THE DRC/DPC, BUT AS RECOMMENDED IN USNATO 6110 WE WISH TO GIVE THE SYSTEM A FAIR CHANCE TO OPERATE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS BASED ON MISSION'S ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS WITH REGARD TO ESTABLISHING OR MODIFYING PRIORITIES MORE CRITICALLY.

5. WE RECOGNIZE YOUR POINT THAT THIS STAGE OFFERS A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH PLANS TO IMPROVE NATO CONVENTIONAL FORCE CAPABILITIES. THEREFORE, WE EXPECT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS AND OF ALL OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE AND IMPROVE NATO FORCES.

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